

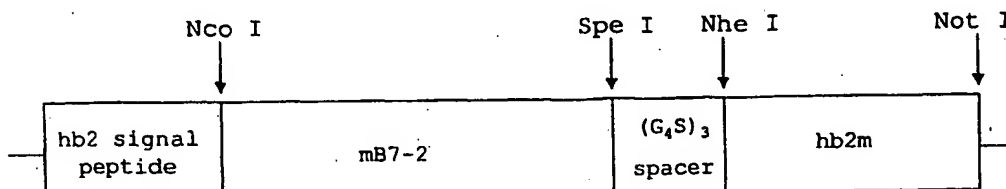
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, represented by THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES [US/US]; National Institutes of Health, Office of Technology Transfer, Suite #325, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852-3804 (US).		<p><b>Published</b></p> <p><i>With international search report.</i></p> <p><i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>	
(72) Inventors; and			
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): RIBAUDO, Randall, K. [US/US]; 11800 Dewey Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906-4881 (US). SHIELDS, Michael [US/US]; 8507 Capricorn Way #80, San Diego, CA 92126 (US).			
(74) Agent: NOONAN, William, D.; Klarquist, Sparkman, Campbell, Leigh & Winston, LLP, Suite 1600, One World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204 (US).			

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(54) Title:  $\beta_2$  MICROGLOBULIN FUSION PROTEINS AND HIGH AFFINITY VARIANTS

## (57) Abstract

$\beta_2$ -microglobulin fusion proteins and modified forms of  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin are disclosed. The fusion proteins are shown to incorporate onto the surface of MHC I expressing mammalian cells and to cause an increased cytotoxic T-cell response to antigens presented by such cells. The fusion proteins are useful in methods of tumor therapy. Modified forms of human  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin, particularly a form having a serine to valine transition at amino acid position 55 of the mature protein are shown to have an enhanced affinity for MHC I heavy chain, and are useful both in the disclosed fusion proteins and as a vaccine adjuvant where enhanced cytotoxic T-cell response is desired.